

**What is claimed is:**

- 1           1.       A method comprising the steps of:  
2           determining an Internet presence of a contact identified in an email message; and  
3           initiating an instant messaging (IM) chat session with the contact in response to  
4           determining that the contact is present.
- 1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein the step of initiating the IM chat session  
2           comprises the steps of:  
3           generating an IM chat window;  
4           obtaining information from the email message; and  
5           displaying the obtained information in the generated IM chat window.
- 1           3.       The method of claim 2, wherein the step of obtaining information from the  
2           email message comprises the step of:  
3           obtaining a subject of the email message.
- 1           4.       The method of claim 3, wherein the step of displaying the obtained  
2           information comprises the step of:  
3           displaying the subject of the email message in the generated IM chat window.
- 1           5.       The method of claim 4, wherein the step of displaying the subject of the  
2           email message comprises the step of:  
3           providing the subject of the email message as an IM chat message.

1           6.       The method of claim 2, wherein the step of obtaining information from the  
2 email message comprises the step of:

3           obtaining a body of the email message.

1           7.       The method of claim 6, wherein the step of displaying the obtained  
2 information comprises the step of:

3           displaying the body of the email message in the generated IM chat window.

1           8.       The method of claim 7, wherein the step of displaying the body of the  
2 email message comprises the step of:

3           providing the body of the email message as an IM chat message.

1           9.       A system comprising:

2           means for determining an Internet presence of a contact identified in an email  
3 message; and

4           means for initiating an instant messaging (IM) chat session with the contact in  
5 response to determining that the contact is present.

1           10.      A system comprising:

2           presence logic configured to determine an Internet presence of a contact identified  
3 in an email message; and

4           chat-initiation logic configured to initiate an instant messaging (IM) chat session  
5 with the contact in response to determine that the contact is present.

1           11.     The computer-readable medium of claim 10, further comprising:  
2           chat-window-generation logic configured to generate an IM chat window;  
3           information-retrieval logic configured to obtain information from the email  
4     message; and  
5           display logic configured to display the obtained information in the generated IM  
6     chat window.

1           12.     The computer-readable medium of claim 11, further comprising:  
2           subject-retrieval logic configured to obtain a subject of the email message.

1           13.     The computer-readable medium of claim 12, further comprising:  
2           subject-display logic configured to display the subject of the email message in the  
3     generated IM chat window.

1           14.     A computer-readable medium comprising:  
2           computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine  
3     an Internet presence of a contact from an email message; and  
4           computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to initiate an  
5     instant messaging (IM) chat session with the contact in response to determine that the  
6     contact is present.

1           15.     The computer-readable medium of claim 14, further comprising:  
2           computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to generate an  
3     IM chat window;  
4           computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to obtain  
5     information from the email message; and  
6           computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the  
7     obtained information in the generated IM chat window.

1           16.     The computer-readable medium of claim 15, further comprising:  
2           computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to obtain a  
3     subject of the email message.

1           17.     The computer-readable medium of claim 16, further comprising:  
2           computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the  
3     subject of the email message in the generated IM chat window.

1           18.     The computer-readable medium of claim 17, further comprising:  
2           computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to provide the  
3     subject of the email message as an IM chat message.

1           19.     The computer-readable medium of claim 15, further comprising:  
2           computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to obtain a  
3     body of the email message.

1           20.     The computer-readable medium of claim 19, further comprising:  
2           computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to display the  
3     body of the email message in the generated IM chat window.

1           21.     The computer-readable medium of claim 20, further comprising:  
2           computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to provide the  
3     body of the email message as an IM chat message.